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Anne W McNeill 10/10/2006 11:30:45 AM From DB/Inbox: Anne W McNeill

Cable
Text:

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 02111

SIPDIS
CXWARSAW:
 ACTION: POL
 INFO: ODC ECON DCM DAO AMB CONS AGRI MGT KRA FCS PASC
 ORA RSO

DISSEMINATION: POLO
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: DCM:KHILLAS
DRAFTED: POL:JGORKOWSKI,POL:D
CLEARED: NONE

VZCZCWRI887
PP RUEHC RUEHPG RHEHNSC RHEHAAA RUEKJCS RUEKJCS
RUEKJCS RUEPGCA
DE RUEHWR #2111 2721341
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 291341Z SEP 06
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2103
INFO RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY 3245
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/OSD WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEPGCA/USEUCOM AIDES VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 002111

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/29/2016
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [MARR](#) [PL](#)
SUBJECT: MISSILE DEFENSE: POLAND OPEN TO SHARING WITH
CZECHS, PUBLICITY A GROWING CONCERN

Classified By: DCM Kenneth Hillas for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) Splitting Missile Defense assets between Poland and the Czech Republic is a good idea according to Robert Kupiecki, Director of MFA Security Policy and Chairman of Poland's interagency working group on Missile Defense. On September 29, he told DCM that he and his counterpart in the Czech MFA, Veronica Kuchynova Smigolova, had agreed that putting the MD radar in one country and interceptors in another the project would gain a multilateral flavor that would assuage Czech and Polish public opinion.

12. (C) For his part, the DCM noted growing concern in Washington about comments by various Polish officials, especially DefMin Radek Sikorski, that Missile Defense itself did not contribute to Polish security. When Kupiecki noted the Polish position was more complex than the statements of any one Minister, DCM cautioned that the conflicting messages left room for misinterpretation by both the public and other governments. Kupiecki responded that for Poland participation in Missile Defense was akin to joining NATO and so required vigorous debate. Kupiecki then reaffirmed the GOP's intention to launch an aggressive public diplomacy campaign after a U.S. decision on Missile Defense.

13. (C) On the separate public diplomacy issue Kupiecki noted that he was "obligated" to inquire about a September 22 Stars and Strips article in which an unnamed U.S. official criticized DefMin Radek Sikorski. He said the GOP had instructed all of its Ambassadors to aggressively counter any press critical of Poland. Kupiecki said that the GOP

considered the September 28 letter from DepSecDef England to the publisher of Stars and Stripes, which made clear the strategic importance of the U.S.-Polish relationship, to have effectively "closed" the matter.

¶4. (C) Comment: Kupiecki's comments revealed his government's growing awareness of the need to manage public opinion. We hope his promise to initiate a pro-Missile Defense publicity campaign after a U.S. decision shows growing press-awareness will result in a unified government message, but fear we may still see discordant notes from Sikorski in particular. End Comment.
ASHE